

From: Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US
Sent: 1/26/2012 7:48:10 PM
To: Terri-A White
CC:
Subject: Re: Dimock sampling

No problem Terri. I will get a response and run it by Betsaida. I will let you know what I find out.

From: Terri-A White
Sent: 01/26/2012 06:19 PM EST
To: seneca.roy@epa.gov
Cc: Joan Schafer
Subject: Fw: Dimock sampling

Roy,
See my email response to Laura Legere. Can you get the answer to her first question, please? We need to know if this is information we can release although we wouldn't be giving her specific addresses. Once you get the answer, we'll have to clear it with Betsaida. Thanks.

----- Forwarded by Terri-A White/R3/USEPA/US on 01/26/2012 06:17 PM -----

From: Terri-A White/R3/USEPA/US
To: Laura Legere <llegere@timeshamrock.com>
Date: 01/26/2012 06:08 PM
Subject: Re: Dimock sampling

Laura,

Here is EPA's response to statements Cabot has made regarding EPA's work in Dimock. I'll have to get you the answer to your first question tomorrow. -- Terri

EPA is in this community sampling and providing water as a direct result of requests from Dimock residents. Our priority is the health of the people there, and our actions are guided entirely by science and the law. We are providing water to a handful of households because data developed by Cabot itself provides evidence that they are being exposed to hazardous substances at levels of health concern. We are conducting monitoring as a prudent step to investigate these concerns and develop a sound scientific basis for assessing the need for further action. This is consistent with steps we would take in any situation where we are presented with potential health risks to citizens under the federal laws we are charged to carry out.

In his State of the Union address, President Obama made clear that he is committed to tapping America's natural gas as part of a new era in American energy. He also affirmed our commitment to "developing this resource without putting the health and safety of our citizens at risk."

We have been clear that if we see an immediate threat to public health, we will not hesitate to take steps under the law to protect Americans whose health may be at risk. The Agency also welcomes PADEP and Cabot's participation in the sampling. Without a doubt, EPA's samples will be collected and reviewed using the highest scientific standards and we will take into account all other relevant and reliable data developed by PADEP and Cabot. The residents in Dimock deserve answers based on the facts, and we look forward to working together to meet our responsibility to this community.

From: Laura Legere <llegere@timeshamrock.com>
To: Terri-A White/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: David Sternberg/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 01/26/2012 12:13 PM
Subject: Re: Dimock sampling

Thanks, Terri.

Actually, tomorrow is fine.

Laura

On Thu, Jan 26, 2012 at 12:08 PM, Terri-A White <White.Terri-A@epamail.epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Laura,

Will get back to you later. What's your deadline? -- Terri

From: Laura Legere <llegere@timeshamrock.com>
To: Terri-A White/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, David Sternberg/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 01/26/2012 10:09 AM
Subject: Dimock sampling

Hi Terri and David,

I understand that water sampling has begun in Dimock Twp. and that the sampling is contingent on residents allowing EPA to access their water wells. Can you tell me how many of the approximately 61 homes identified in the action memo for the investigation have agreed to grant the EPA access and how many have refused?

Also, would you like to respond to critical comments issued by Cabot Oil and Gas and Dimock residents who support Cabot?

Yesterday, Cabot released a statement saying this: "Recently, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced its intention to sample water in Dimock Township, Pennsylvania. While taking water samples is certainly something EPA does from time to time, Cabot is concerned that this recent action may be more of an attempt to advance a political agenda hostile to shale gas development rather than a principled effort to address environmental concerns in the area."

Today, the company wrote to Administrator Lisa Jackson: "We are concerned that EPA's actions can be easily misinterpreted and can undermine regulatory certainty necessary for development of oil and natural gas.

"President Obama in his State of the Union address strongly highlighted the importance of shale gas development as a key aspect of this country's national energy policy and economic recovery. EPA's actions in Dimock appear to undercut the President's stated commitment to this important resource, even in light of EPA's regulatory mission."

And a local pro-gas drilling group called "Enough is Enough" wrote a letter to Administrator Jackson this week: "The Philadelphia Regional Office's action in enabling this litigation threatens our livelihoods and is destroying our community reputation. Worse, EPA is relying upon hyped-up allegations regarding arsenic, manganese and sodium, all of which are known to be naturally occurring in our water supplies in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Even more outrageous is the twisting of EPA's Superfund authority, intended to help clean up abandoned hazardous waste sites, into a weapon for use by trial lawyers in bludgeoning Cabot for what is a non-issue. These actions are an assault on our property rights and basic freedoms. We urge you to rein in this rogue Regional Office."

Thanks for your help.

Laura Legere

Staff Writer

Scranton Times-Tribune

570-348-9100 x 5184

llegere@timeshamrock.com